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SOURCE Szabad Nep.

DEMAND ENFORCEMENT OF PLAN DISCIPLINE

Hungary's industrial production increased 37 times more rapidly in 1951 than during the capitalistic regime. This expansion was due to the system of planned economy, in contrast to the lack of planning under capitalism. However, the advantages of economic planning would have been even greater but for certain deficiencies in plan discipline.

Some plant managers are content to fulfill their quotas as a whole, disregarding the products specified under their production plans. They concentrate on "easy" products at the expense of the more difficult kinds. This happened last year at the MAVAG (Magyar Allam Vasutak Acel es Gepgyara, Steel and Machine Factory of the Hungarian State Railroads), which fulfilled its over-all quota but fell behind in a number of important machines, such as pneumatic compressors.

Frequently, the production plan is fulfilled in all details at the expense of the wage fund, production costs, and material conservation. Many technical managers are under the impression that they are responsible only for the technical execution of the plan, although single responsibility involves economic as well as technical responsibility. Particularly serious problems arose last year in connection with the wage fund.

Another deficiency concerns quality, which declined alarmingly as efforts were concentrated on the quantitative fulfillment of the production plans. It should be understood that a production plan may be considered fulfilled only if the qualitative provisions have been observed as well.

All these deficiencies are due to disorganized operating schedules. At the beginning of the month inactivity is the rule; this is replaced by feverish activity at the end of the month. The ups and downs in operating speed usually result in disregard of delivery dates, overtime payments, unsatisfactory quality, and a high proportion of rejects and waste. In sum, many plant managers pursue a show-window policy and are stricken with "plant blindness."

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The ministries and even the National Planning Office have contributed to the general lack of plan discipline by making unjustified changes in the production plans. Violation of plant discipline is also due often to inadequate supervision by state agencies and party organs. A battle is going on to enforce labor discipline among the millions of workers; the plant managers should also be required to observe discipline.

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